

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of ameliorating psychosis by administration of an amount of a glucocorticoid receptor antagonist effective to ameliorate the psychosis, with the proviso that the patient not be suffering from Cushing's Syndrome.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the psychosis is associated with a condition selected from the group consisting of psychotic major depression, schizoaffective disorder, Alzheimer's Disease and cocaine addiction.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the glucocorticoid receptor antagonist comprises a steroidal skeleton with at least one phenyl-containing moiety in the 11-beta position of the steroidal skeleton.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the phenyl-containing moiety in the 11-beta position of the steroidal skeleton is a dimethylaminophenyl moiety.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein the glucocorticoid receptor antagonist comprises mifepristone.

6. The method of claim 3, wherein the glucocorticoid receptor antagonist is selected from the group consisting of RU009 and RU044.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the glucocorticoid receptor antagonist is administered in a daily amount of between about 8 to 20 mg per kilogram of body weight per day.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the glucocorticoid receptor antagonist is administered in a daily amount of about 8 to 12 mg per kilogram of body weight per day.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the glucocorticoid receptor antagonist is administered for about four days.

9  
10. The method of claim 1, wherein the glucocorticoid receptor antagonist is administered in a daily amount of about 600 mg per day.

10  
11. The method of claim 1, wherein the administration is once per day.

5  
11  
12. The method of claim 1, wherein the mode of administration is oral.

12  
13. The method of claim 1, wherein the mode of administration is transdermal.

10  
17  
14. A method of ameliorating psychotic depression comprising administering a mifepristone in a daily amount of about 8 to 12 mg per kilogram of body weight per day, wherein the administration continues for a period of about four days.

15  
15. A kit for the amelioration of psychosis in a human, the kit comprising:  
a glucocorticoid receptor antagonist; and,  
an instructional material teaching the indications, dosage and schedule of administration of the glucocorticoid receptor antagonist.

16. The kit of claim 15, wherein the instructional material indicates that the glucocorticoid receptor antagonist can be administered in a daily amount of about 8 to 12 mg per kilogram of body weight per day.

17. The kit of claim 15, wherein the instructional material indicates that the administration of the glucocorticoid receptor antagonist continues for period of about four days.

18. The kit of claim 15, wherein the psychosis is a component of psychotic major depression and the instructional material indicates that the glucocorticoid receptor antagonist can be used for the treatment of psychotic major depression.

19. The kit of claim 15, wherein the glucocorticoid receptor antagonist is mifepristone.

20. The kit of claim 19, wherein the mifepristone is in tablet form.

21. A method of treating psychosis associated with glucocorticoid related dysfunction by administration of an amount of a glucocorticoid receptor antagonist effective to ameliorate the psychosis, with the proviso that the patient not be suffering from Cushing's Syndrome.

667000 " 2311260